

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 RANGOO 01921 01 OF 02 100434Z

11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01

COME-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 SNM-02 /109 W

----- 122532

R 100352Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9908

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

CINCPAC HI

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK UNN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI UNN

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD UNN

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU UNN

AMCONSUL MANDALAY UNN

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI UNN

USLO PEKING UNN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV UNN

AMCONSUL UDORN UNN

USMISSION UUN UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 RANGOON 1921

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR BM

SUBJ: JOINT WEEKA #25

1. GUB TO FLOAT CONSORTIUM PROJECT ANEW (LOU)

FINANCE MINISTRY OFFICIAL ADVISES INFORMALLY THAT DEPUTY PRIME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 RANGOO 01921 01 OF 02 100434Z

MINISTER/FINANCE MINISTER U LWIN WILL AGAIN RAISE IDEA OF AID CON-

SORTIUM FOR BURMA WHILE ATTENDING ANNUAL IBRD MEETING IN WASHINGTON IN SEPTEMBER. HE PLANS TO CONSULT WITH CHARGE ABOUT US POSITION PRIOR TO THE TRIP. WE HAD ALREADY HEARD FROM FRG EMBASSY HERE THAT GUB SEEKING DETAILS OF MECHANICS OF INDIA AND INCONESIA CONSORTIA TO SERVE AS POSSIBLE MODELS FOR BURMESE ONE.

2. NEW AMBASSADORS OFFICIALLY NAMED (UNCLAS)

DURING PAST WEEK, GUB ANNOUNCED FOLLOWING ELEVEN AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENTS, MOST OF WHICH HAVE BEEN REPORTED PREVIOUSLY: U LA WAN (ISRAEL), U THAUNG LWIN (JAPAN), SHWE ZAN AUNG (ITALY), DR. NYI NYI (AUSTRALIA), U TIN LAT (US), U KYAW NYUNT (CANADA), U KYAW ZAW (PHILIPPINES), U PE AUNG (GDR), BRIG. MYINT MAUNG (UN), U THA KYAW (UK), U TUN TIN (PAKISTAN). IN ADDITION, WE UNDERSTAND THAT U THET TIN, CURRENTLY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY, WILL BE NAMED TO MALAYSIA. HE IS EX-MILITARY AS ARE THE MAJORITY OF THE NEW APPOINTMENTS.

3. DIPLOMATIC ONE-UPMANSHIP: DPRK NAMES AMBASSADOR FIRST (UNCLAS)

ON THE RECENT ELEVATION OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH KOREAN CONGENS IN RANGOON TO EMBASSY STATUS, DPRK SUCCESSFULLY PRESSURED GUB IN ACCORDING IT PRIORITY OF ANNOUNCEMENT BY A FEW DAYS OVER THE ROK. DPRK EVIDENTLY CONTINUES ITS EFFORTS TO ASSERT ITS DIPLOMATIC PRIMACY OVER ITS SOUTHERN BRETHREN BY HURRIEDLY NAMING ON JULY 3 ITS CHARGE, MA JANG CHOL, THE NEW ENVOY. SINCE ROK HAS YET TO NAME ITS NEW AMBASSADOR, THIS WILL ASSURE DPRK PRECEDENCE ON THE DIP LIST.

4. BCP CONDOLENCES: BETTER LATE THAN NEVER (UNCLAS)

THE BCP'S CLANDESTINE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE OF BURMA BROADCAST ON JULY 3 MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE ON DEATHS OF CHAIRMAN THAKIN ZIN AND GENERAL SECRETARY THAKIN CHIT FROM THE COMMUNIST PARTIES OF ALBANIA, MALAYSIA, THAILAND, INDONESIA, NORTH KALIMANTAN (INDONESIA), PHILIPPINES, POLAND AND ITALY. MESSAGES ALL DATED LATE MAY AND NO EXPLANATION OFFERED OF WHY THEY WERE RELEASED THREE AND A HALF MONTHS AFTER THE TWO BCP LEADERS DIED IN COMBAT (WEEKA 11, ITEM 3). SIMILARITY OF TEXTS INDICATES BCP MAY HAVE HAD A GHOST WRITER ROLE IN THEIR PREPARATION.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 RANGOO 01921 01 OF 02 100434Z

5. PETROLEUM PRODUCTION TARGET REDUCED; OTHER PETROLEUM NOTES

MYANMA OIL CORPORATION REDUCED ITS TARGET FOR PETROLEUM OUTPUT IN 1975-76 FROM 8.7 TO 7.7 MILLION BARRELS. PRODUCTION TARGETS BY FIELD ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CHAUK	314,100 BARRELS
-------	-----------------

YENANGYAUNG	1,133,600 "
MYANAUNG	549,100 "
PROME	459,300 "
MANN & OTHER FIELDS	5,301,600 "
TOTAL	7,757,700 "

THE NEW TARGET PROBABLY REPRESENTS RECOGNITION THAT HIGHLY TOUTED FIND AT LETPANDO IS MUCH SMALLER THAN ANTICIPATED (WEEKA #17, ITEM 7); MINES MINISTER MAUNG MAUNG KHA ADMITTED AS MUCH IN RECENT PUBLIC REFERENCE TO HIGH COSTS OF RECOVERY AT LETPANDO. IT IS ALSO LIKELY THAT NEW MINES MINISTER AND NEW DIRECTOR OF MOC DID NOT WANT TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR FAILING TO MEET HIGH PRODUCTION TARGET SET BY THEIR PREDECESSORS. MOC WILL CONTINUE ONSHORE EXPLORATION AND TEST DRILLING WITH 49 TEST WELLS SLATED TO BE DRILLED THIS FISCAL YEAR. A WEST GERMAN TECHNICIAN ASSISTING EXPLORATION ACTIVITY REPORTS MAIN AREAS TO BE INVESTIGATED WILL BE NEAR PRESENT FIELDS AT CHAUK AND MANN AND IN THE DELTA REGION. THIS IS FIRST TIME EXPLORATION HAS BEEN ATTEMPTED IN DELTA DURING MONSOON SEASON. TECHNICIAN ALSO EXPRESSED OPINION THAT BASED ON PRESENT GEOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE, ANY ONSHORE FINDS IN NEAR FUTURE WOULD BE SMALL, BARELY SUFFICIENT TO OFFSET DECLINING PRODUCTION FROM BURMA'S PRESENT FIELDS. IN OFFSHORE DEVELOPMENTS, ESSO HAS REPORTEDLY RUN INTO ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES IN DRILLING ITS SECOND HOLE AND MAY ABANDON IT FOR ANOTHER SITE. HOWARTH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 RANGOO 01921 02 OF 02 100502Z

11
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 FEA-01 AGR-05 SNM-02 /109 W
----- 122786

R 100352Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9909
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
CINCPAC HI
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK UNN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI UNN
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD UNN
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU UNN
AMCONSUL MANDALAY UNN
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI UNN
USLO PEKING UNN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV UNN
AMCONSUL UDORN UNN
USMISSION USUN UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 RANGOON 1921

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

6. FERTILIZER (UNCLAS)

GUB AGRICULTURE CORPORATION ANNOUNCED IT DISTRIBUTED FERTILIZER TO FARMERS AT LOSS OF K1.2 (\$.2) MILLION IN 1974-75. FACTORY PRICE OF 56 POUND BAG OF UREA IS K12 (\$2) PER BAG BUT CORPORATION SELLS IT TO FARMERS FOR K9 (\$1.40) PER BAG. THE CORPORATION PLANS TO DISTRIBUTE 132,000 TONS OF UREA TO FARMERS IN 1975-76.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 RANGOO 01921 02 OF 02 100502Z

COMMENT: AS IS USUALLY THE CASE, THERE SEEMS SOME DISCREPANCY IN THE GUB'S FIGURES. COMBINED CAPACITY OF BURMA'S TWO UREA PLANTS IS 133,000 TONS PER YEAR AND IN '73-74 PRODUCTION WAS 112,000 TONS. ASSUMING FULL CAPACITY PRODUCTION, THIS LEAVES VERY LITTLE FOR EXPORT, AND WHILE EXPORT FIGURES NOT AVAILABLE, GUB HAS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED SALE OF SEVERAL THOUSAND TONS ABROAD AND IS NEGOTIATING ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SALES.

7. GUB CABINET RESHUFFLED (UNCLAS)

GUB COUNCIL OF MINISTERS CONFIRMED THE FOLLOWING SHIFTS OF RESPONSIBILITY AMONG CABINET MEMBERS EFFECTIVE JULY 4. U MAUNG MAUNG KHA TO BE MINISTER FOR LABOR IN ADDITION TO RETAINING HIS POSITION AS MINISTER FOR MINES; COL SEIN LWIN MOVED FROM MINISTER FOR COOPERATIVES TO MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS REPLACING U THA KYAW WHO HAS BEEN NAMED AMBASSADOR TO THE U.K. (WEEK 21, ITEM 3); AND U TIN TUN, FORMER MINISTER FOR LABOR, WHO TOOK THE COOPERATIVES PORTFOLIO.

COMMENT: THIS REPRESENTS A MINOR RESHUFFLE WITH NO NEW FACES APPEARING IN CABINET, BUT MAUNG MAUNG KHA'S APPOINTMENT IS A RATHER

MILD SURPRISE. AT THE TIME OF THE JUNE 1974 LABOR DISTURBANCES, HE HELD THE SENSITIVE POSITIONS OF MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE PEOPLE'S WORKERS COUNCILS, WHICH MADE HIM A PRIME CANDIDATE AS SCAPEGOAT FOR THE INCIDENTS. RUMORS AT THE TIME CLAIMED NE WIN INTENDED TO FIRE HIM FROM BOTH POSITIONS, BUT HE OBVIOUSLY HAS SURVIVED QUITE WELL. HE RETAINED HIS POSITION AS CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKERS' COUNCIL AND EARLIER THIS YEAR HE MOVED FROM INDUSTRY TO THE SOMEWHAT MORE IMPORTANT POST OF MINISTER FOR MINES. NOW HE HAS ADDED A SECOND PORTFOLIO TO HIS OTHER DUTIES MAKING HIM PERHAPS ONE OF THE MORE INFLUENTIAL CABINET MEMBERS.

8. NARCOTICS: VISITS (UNCLAS)

GUB CUSTOMS HAS RESPONDED TO AN EARLIER INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A SENIOR CUSTOMS OFFICIALS OBSERVATION TOUR IN THE U.S. ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE TO SEND TWO DIRECTORS AND AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ON AN APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEK TOUR COMMENCING IN LATE AUGUST. ALSO UNDERWAY ARE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE VISIT IN MID-JULY OF DR. PETER BOURNE, AN AUTHORITY ON DRUG REHABILITATION AND TREAT-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 RANGOO 01921 02 OF 02 100502Z

MENT. DR. BOURNE IS FOLLOWING UP ON AN EARLIER SUCCESSFUL VISIT. BURMESE MEDITNZ AUTHORITIES HAVE DEMONSTRATED A KEEN INTEREST IN DR. BOURNE'S RETURN VISIT AND ARE SETTING UP A SERIES OF LECTURES AND PROGRAMS TO BE PRESENTED BY HIM TO THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY.

A TWO-MAN UNFDAC TEAM SPENT SEVERAL DAYS IN LATE JUNE NEGOTIATING WITH THE GUB ON THE \$5 MILLION DOLLAR INCOME SUBSTITUTION PLAN. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE OF OPINION, ACCORDING TO UN AND MFA OFFICIALS, IS WHETHER THE UN SHOULD ESTABLISH A SEPARATE PROJECT OFFICE IN RANGOON FOR THE PROGRAM. THE GUB OPPOSED THE IDEA. THE TEAM DEPARTED, BUT AT LEAST ONE MEMBER IS EXPECTED TO RETURN SHORTLY. THE RESULT IS LIKELY TO BE NO SEPARATE PROJECT OFFICE, WITH RESPONSIMILITIES OF COORDINATING AMONG THE MANY MINISTRIES PLACED WITH THE UNDP.

9. AIR WEST - BURMA AIRWAYS CONTRACT RENEWAL (UNCLAS)

WHILE NO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MADE, THE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH HUGHES AIR WEST PERSONNEL MAINTAIN BURMA AIRWAYS' LONE BOEING 727 HAS BEEN RENEWED FOR ANOTHER TWO YEARS. TERMS OF THE RENEWAL ARE NOT KNOWN, BUT THE AMERICAN COMPANY'S BID WAS SAID TO BE CONSIDERABLY LOWER THAN THAT OF THE NEAREST COMPETITOR, JAPAN AIRLINES.

COMMENT: AFTER FIVE YEARS OF PAYMENTS TO AIR WEST, THE BURMESE NOW OWN THEIR BOEING 727 FREE AND CLEAR. IN SPITE OF FOOT DRAGGING BY THE BURMESE THERE WAS NEVER ANY DOUBT THAT THEY WOULD SIGN A NEW MAINTENANCE CONTRACT WITH A FOREIGN COMPANY. WHILE AIR WEST PERSONNEL HAVE TRAINED BURMESE MECHANICS FOR FIVE YEARS, NONE OF

THEM ARE FAA CERTIFIED TO MAINTAIN THE BOEING. THE FAULT LIES NOT WITH THE BURMESE MECHANICS, WHO ARE COMPETENT, BUT WITH BURMA AIRWAYS MANAGERS WHO HAVE CONSISTENTLY REFUSED TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SAFE OPERATION OF THE BOEING.

10. NARCOTICS: HELICOPTERS ASSEMBLED (UNCLAS)

THREE OF THE FOUR US SUPPLIED HELICOPTERS HAVE BEEN ASSEMBLED AND ARE ENGAGED IN FLIGHT CHECK-OUT. MEETING WITH BURMESE AIR FORCE OFFICIALS DISCLOSED THAT, ALTHOUGH MANIFEST WAS MISSING, 51 PERCENT OF SPARES ARE HERE. PARTS FOR THE FOURTH CRAFT WERE MISSING FROM THE INITIAL SHIPMENTS. BELL CO. FIELD SERVICE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 RANGOO 01921 02 OF 02 100502Z

TECH REPS ARE IMPRESSED WITH BURMESE CAPABILITIES AND WERE SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT BURMESE ALREADY IN CONTACT WITH HELI-ORIENT, SINGAPORE FOR POSSIBLE FOLLOW-ON MAINTENANCE AND SPARES. FLIGHT TRAINING STARTED THIS WEEK.
HOWARTH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, POLITICAL SUMMARIES, CONSORTIUMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975RANGOO01921
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750238-0074
From: RANGOON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750769/aaaacjht.tel
Line Count: 300
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <04 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOINT WEEKA #25
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, EAD, BM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006